

# ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL READING LIST

## OVERVIEW/GENERAL READING

Moran, *Anatomy of Courage* Various publishers -- \$12.00 new paperback\*

Synopsis: This is a classic study of the human dimension of combat and examines the soldier's reaction to the stresses of combat. The author was a physician during WWI and Winston Churchill's personal physician during WWII. It provides excellent insights into a leader's responsibility to his/her soldiers in combat

History Office, USACE, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History*

Online at USACE <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-68/toc.htm> Or order in paperback from USACE

Synopsis: This book surveys the basic timeline, key figures, important events, and various roles performed by Army engineers. It is a mixture of chronological narrative and topical chapters that deal with the combat and non-combat activities of engineers. Reading this book gives the broad context in which to place other books on this list.

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Martin, *Private Yankee Doodle* Various publishers -- \$6.95 new paperback\*

Synopsis: Martin's book is the only personal memoir for an engineer in the American Revolution, and it is arguably the most detailed, personalized, and significant memoir by a Continental soldier from that conflict. Martin served in the Corps of Sappers and Miners, reaching the rank of sergeant by Yorktown in 1781. Martin helped construct the siege works at Yorktown.

## 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY WESTERN EXPANSION & MEXICAN WAR

Traas, *From the Golden Gate to Mexico City - The U.S. Army Topographical Engineers in the Mexican War, 1846-1848*

Online at USACE <http://www.history.army.mil/books/mexico/topo/contents.htm>

Synopsis: A former engineer officer, Traas writes one of the few works dealing with the Topographic Engineers and the role they played in one of America's little known wars. It shows the roots of the application of terrain and topographic expertise to the demands of maneuver and combat.

## CIVIL WAR

Hess, *In the Trenches of Petersburg: Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat*

\$31.00 hardback new and \$20.00-30.00 used\*

Synopsis: This is the third in a trilogy of books by Hess examining fortifications and trench warfare in the Civil War. Hess analyzes engineer activities during the construction phases and operational phases of the Petersburg siege in 1864 and 1865. This book includes chapters on the ponton bridge across the James at Weyanoke Point and the entire Battle of the Crater. Hess also provides background and detailed information on engineer officers of the Union and Confederacy.

McDonald, ed., *Make me a Map of the Valley: The Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer- Jedediah Hotchkiss*

Southern Methodist University Press – \$17.95 paperback\*

Synopsis: Archie McDonald tells the story of one of the Civil War's least understood staff officers- the topographer. It is an excellent account of the actions and contributions of the topographic engineer in one of the most difficult and bloody wars in American history.

Owen, "Dear Friends at Home..." *The Letters and Diary of Thomas James Owen, Fiftieth New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment, During the Civil War*

Online at USACE <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-16/toc.htm>

Synopsis: This is a rare personal account of an engineer soldier during the Civil War. It provides an eye-witness account of several of the pivotal battles of the war, to include the opposed crossing of the Union forces at Fredericksburg.

## **WORLD WAR II**

Austin, *One Man's War: Through the Lens of a Combat Engineer*

\$49.95 in paperback – On-demand [www.onemanswarbook.com](http://www.onemanswarbook.com)

Synopsis: Austin's book combines lavish color photographs with candid personal memories of his years as an enlisted engineer in an armored engineer battalion in Europe during World War II. He tells what engineers actually did in the campaigns in 1944 and 1945. Austin's photographs give visual perspective to his well-written story that is not available in any other book.

Faustina, *Memoirs of an Engineer Lieutenant in World War II*

\$25.00 in paperback – On-demand [www.rosedogbookstore.co](http://www.rosedogbookstore.co)

Synopsis: LT Faustina was an officer in a general service regiment and a combat engineer battalion during WWII. His personal account is an excellent story of the ground level of engineer operations and the leadership needed at the platoon level of war. His interactions with his soldiers and NCOs constitute a first-rate study of small unit leadership. This is a superb companion volume to the classic *G.I. Journal of Sergeant Giles*.

Fowle, ed., *Builders and Fighters: U.S. Army Engineers in World War II*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-42/toc.htm>

Or order in paperback from USACE

Synopsis: This book is an anthology of chapters written by leading engineer historians. It covers all aspects of engineer activities and operations in World War II and thus gives the reader an idea of the breadth of the engineers' contributions to American military mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability during that conflict.

Hall, ed., *Love, War and the 96<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Colored)*

\$18.99 in paperback – On-demand [www.booksurge.com](http://www.booksurge.com)

Synopsis: This is a very detailed and personal account of a young white officer in a black engineer unit in WWII. The personal stresses of war, including separation from family, and the challenges of leading troops generally denied recognition because of their race, are the core stories of this young engineer. It also provides excellent insights into the role of the engineer construction unit in the Pacific Theater.

Pergrin, *First Across the Rhine: The 291<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion in Belgium, France, and Germany*

\$17.95 in paperback and \$9.99 on Kindle

Synopsis: COL Pergrin's history of his unit, the 291<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion, is the best single account of a combat engineer battalion in war. It is an outstanding account of challenge and leadership in Europe in WWII. The value of the engineers in the Battle of the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine River is clearly evident in Pergrin's story.

## **KOREAN WAR**

Bussey, *Firefight at Yechon: Courage and Racism in the Korean War*

\$4.95 in paperback new or used – order online

Synopsis: Bussey's book is significant for three reasons. First, it is one of the rare books on combat engineers during the Korean War. Second, it is based on the author's own experiences as an engineer in that conflict. Third, it deals with issues of institutionalized racism in a U.S. Army in the midst of its transition from being a segregated force to becoming an integrated force.

Fowle and Lonquest, eds., *Remembering the "Forgotten War": U.S. Army Engineer Officers in Korea*  
Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-66/toc.htm>

Or order in paperback from USACE

Synopsis: This book is a collection of excerpted oral history interviews with engineer officers regarding their service in the Korean War. Because the officers ranged in rank from junior officers to flag officers, there are lessons to be gleaned by all current engineer officers reading this book. The photographs provided added visual reinforcement of what the veterans' recollections describe as often horrendous conditions.

Farquhar and Jeffers, *Bridging the Imjin: Construction of Libby and Teal Bridges during the Korean War (October 1952-July 1953)*

Online at USACE at

<http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-32/toc.htm>

Synopsis: The authors have written a brief but detailed account of a major engineering challenge during the Korean War. It is an excellent case study of lines of communications construction during a fluid war.

## **VIETNAM WAR**

Dunn, *Vietnam Studies: Base Development, 1965-1970*

Online at CMH at <http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/basedev/index.htm>

Synopsis: This is one of the first studies of facilities construction in support of both ground combat and the larger operational demands of war. Vietnam was the first conflict that blended both military performed construction and contractor supported construction. It would be a tremendous baseline case study of general engineering in contingency operations followed by studies of the same requirement in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the Global War on Terrorism.

Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: U.S. Army Engineers, 1965-1970*

Online at CMH at <http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/Engineers/index.htm>

Synopsis: MG Ploger was Commander, U.S. Army Engineer Command- Vietnam. His book is a general overview of engineer activities from the first commitment of ground troops to 1970. Although general in nature, MG Ploger does provide brief discussions of some of the more critical elements of the engineer story in Vietnam such as the lines of communication construction program and land clearing teams. Until the publication of Adrian Traas' work on Vietnam, this will be the only general overview of the engineers in Vietnam in print.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

McDonnell, *After Desert Storm: The U.S. Army and the Reconstruction of Kuwait*

Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-58/toc.htm>

Or order in paperback from USACE

Synopsis: Janet McDonald was a staff historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She wrote an overview of the efforts of engineers in DS/DS, focusing on the rebuilding of Kuwait. The book is particularly valuable as an account of the infrastructure work done by engineers and contractors following the end of hostilities.

Schubert, *Building Air Bases in the Negev - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Israel, 1979-1982*  
Online at USACE at <http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-pamphlets/ep870-1-31/toc.htm>

Or order in paperback from USACE

Synopsis: In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Corp of Engineers performed a number of construction tasks at OCONUS locations. Mickey Shubert has documented with significant detail, the processes and events surrounding one of those construction projects. It would be an invaluable companion work in the study of general engineering, infrastructure engineering, and host nation support.

### **Contemporary Operations (not necessarily engineer-related)**

Bowden, *Black Hawk Down: Story of Modern War* (1999)

Penguin Press -- \$7.99 new paperback and \$7.99 on Kindle\*

In this outstanding journalistic account of small units in MOUT, Bowden covers the tragic events in 1993 in Mogadishu and vividly documents the actions of American service personnel caught in a desperate situation. The author also touches on problems of C2, the friction of war, and coalition operations.

Fontenot, et al., *On Point: The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom* (2004)

Combat Studies Institute – Order individuals paperbacks

Online at CSI at <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/resources/csi/csi.asp#GWOT>

Written at the operational and campaign levels of war, this book covers the historical background to OIF, the Army's planning and mobilization processes, and the first weeks of OIF through 1 May 2003. The last chapter titled "Implications" analyzes lessons learned regarding COE, C2, CAO, logistics, information, and others.

Robertson and Yates, eds., *Block by Block: The Challenge of Urban Operations* (2003)

CGSC Press – paperback

Online at CGSC at [www.cgsc.edu/carl/download/csipubs/Block/intro\\_Block\\_by.pdf](http://www.cgsc.edu/carl/download/csipubs/Block/intro_Block_by.pdf)

This anthology contains chapters that analyze several MOUTs, including Stalingrad in World War II, Hue in Vietnam, Panama City in Operation JUST CAUSE, and Kabul in 1979. Another chapter examines humanitarian relief in an urban environment following Hurricane Andrew. An introduction provides the historical context and key issues, and the epilogue points to future developments in MOUT.

U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, *Long Hard Road: NCO Experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq* (2007)

Published by USASMA

Online at [handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA476822](http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA476822)

This anthology contains brief, first-hand accounts by NCOs from all branches about their experiences in combat operations in Afghanistan, fighting the Iraqi Army in OIF, and fighting insurgents in Iraq.

\*Prices subject to change